THE
Theatrical Observer;
AND
Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 6217. *THURSDAY, Nov.* 25, 1841. *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

LET ill-natured and querulous folks rail as they list at the prevailing taste in the affairs of the Drama—we are content to abide by the public decision. It did our critical hearts good, last night, to behold the crowded auditory assembled to witness the adaptation of two of our old English Comedies to the taste and feelings of the present time. Deprived of all that can be offensive to the most refined and delicate judgment, the adapter has produced a work worthy of a gentleman and a scholar; and the audience testify their encouragement, by flocking nightly to pay the tribute of their admiration to native genius. The management is now reaping the inevitable reward of sound judgment and unbounded liberality. After *Court and City*, a Farce was revived which we remember to have seen about twelve years since, at the English Opera, called *Free and Easy*, and if our recollection serve us faithfully the successful author of the Comedy is also the writer of the Farce. It was then supported by Wrench, Bartley, Keeley, Sloman, Miss Kelly, and Miss Cawse; and in the present instance the cast was equally powerful: Mr. C. Mathews, playing *Sir John Freeman*, Mr. Bartley his original character, *Mr. Courtly*, and Harley that of *Michael*, formerly played by Keeley. It is one of the best Farces we have seen for some time, and its revival will be the source of much advantage to the management, and amusement to the public. The character of *Sir John Freeman*, from which the Farce derives its name of *Free and Easy*, was played in an off-hand, gentlemanly style by Mr. C. Mathews, who may now undoubtedly be esteemed the most agreeable Farce actor of our day, whose presence (whether in the higher walks of Comedy, or in that which is more suited to the vivacity of his nature,) is always welcomed as agreeable and pleasant. Mr. Bartley's acting as *Courtly* deserves high praise, nor was his qualification for the part lessened by the quantity of fury and bombast which it required at his hands. But let him remember that the indecent repetition of an oath in every sentence he utters, while it adds nothing to the force of the dialogue, is very far from beneficial to the morals of the youthful portion of the frequenters of dramatic representations. Mrs. Orger, Miss Murray, and Harley, each rendered their parts as effective as their relative merits would allow, and were rewarded accordingly.

HAY-MARKET THEATRE.

Hamlet was played here last night by particular desire, followed by *Suzanne*, and *The Boarding School.*

Theatrical Fracas.—A few days since, we announced the death of the mother of a popular actress and vocalist of the Haymarket Theatre, in consequence of which her part in a recent successful Farce was given temporarily to another actress of less celebrity, whose refusal to surrender the character to its original representative, on Tuesday night, led to the appearance of both ladies on the stage in the same part, and we understand that something more than mere persuasion was requisite to induce the

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lady who had understudied the character in question to discontinue her performance. The original representative, however, proceeded with her part.

The same Pattern.—An impudent robbery, as the *Droit* states, was effected a few days since, at the expence of Mdlle. N—— one of the dramatic celebrities at Paris. A stranger, of gentlemanlike appearance, introduced himself to her one morning, under pretence of being commissioned as an artist, by a lady of high rank, to obtain a drawing of a set of ornaments in brilliants, which she had worn on the stage, and which the lady had greatly admired. He solicited leave to draw them, and Mdlle. N. obligingly complied, by putting the ornaments on the table. The artist drew them carefully, and replaced them one by one, in their cases, while Mdlle. N. was occupied in various matters, and once or twice quitted the room. When the artist had finished, he gave the cases back to Mdlle. N. with many polite acknowledgments, and took his leave. In the evening when she went to put on the ornaments in question, they were found to have been changed for a set in paste and imitation-gold, of identically the same pattern.

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer,

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town.—

Monday, stroll to MADAME TUSSAUD'S elegant Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker Street, Portman Square.—Just added to her unrivalled collection the celebrated Coronation Robes of his late Majesty George IVth., which cost the enormous sum of 18,000*l* (embroidered by the Messrs. Holbecks,) which far surpass in magnificence anything ever worn by a British Monarch—A Room, &c. has been fitted up to correspond in splendor. Brave Napier is also to be seen here.

Tuesday, pop into the Somerset Gallery, 151, Strand, next door to Somerset House, to see a most wonderful Exhibition, *The Industrious Fleas.* They dance, ride, drive a four-in-hand, fight, and in fact do everything in first rate style, exciting the admiration of all present. By the bye, this is Signor Bertolotto's Exhibition, that has been exhibited for the last eight years.

You may talk of eye snuff, but after having the head-ache for a year, popped into PERRING'S, 85, Strand. got one of his superb Beavers, so light lost the head-ache in a minute—Mrs.P. instantly purchased a lot of his fashioaableBeaverBonnets elegant and quite the *ton*—must patronize PERRING.

Thursday, took a peep at the THAMES TUNNEL, which is now open every day from nine o'clock in the morning until dark, (entrance on the Surrey side of the river, close to Rotherhithe Church. The Tunnel is brilliantly lighted with gas. The foot passengers Shaft at Wapping, 55 feet in diameter, is now in progress.

In my way from the Theatre, drop into the *Harmonic Meeting*, held at EVANS'S Grand Hotel, King Street, Covent Garden, quite delighted with the excellence of the singing—commences every evening at ten o'clock. When Mrs. P. is out of town, stay a week, and only pay a guinea for bed and breakfast. I'm always to be found on Saturday, at half-past five, at the Convivial Dinner held here.

Call upon Messrs. JACKSON BLOCKLEY and Co., 96, New Bond Street, near Oxford-street, for the new music by J. Blockley, author of 'Love not,' &c.—just published—'Beautiful Spring,' (ballad,) 'Sleep Baby sleep,' 'Last song of Sappho,' 'Love seeking a Lodging,' and purchase likewise the favorite duets of 'List to the Convent Bells,' 'The Moorish Evening Drum,' 'Thoughts of Home,' new edition of 'My Childhood's Home,' 'The Flower Girl's song,' 'The Wind and the Beam.

Afterwards called at EMMETT'S, 27, Holborn Hill, to view his Novel Pen Maker, by which any one can make a superior Pen in less than one minute! also his improved Needle Threader, to enable Ladies, whose sight is impaired to thread their needles with the greatest ease—a most ingenious contrivance.

"All good *spirits* come to my *Beck*," at his Dr. Johnson's Tavern, Bolt Court, Fleet Street,—where you meet excellent company—capital fare at *fair* prices—delightful singing—(commences every evening at a quarter to nine,) cigars, billiards, good beds, and an enticing bill of fare.

Saturday, I examine Miss LINWOOD'S curious Needle Work, Leicester Square—lately added other beautiful specimens of her art. But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's, &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, BELLINI's Opera of

NORMA.

The Overture Composed by C. RAPER, Esq.

CONDUCTOR, ... MR. BENEDICT

The Chorusses under the Direction of Mr. J. H. TULLY,
The SCENERY by the Messrs. GRIEVE.
The Decorations and Appointments by Mr. W. BRADWELL.
The Dresses by Mesdames GLOVER and RAYNER.

Pollio, (a Roman Pro-Consul,) Mr W. HARRISON,
Flavius, (a Centurion,) Mr CLEMENT WHITE,
Oroveso, (the Arch Druid,) Mr LEFFLER,
Norma..(a Druidess)..Miss ADELAIDE KEMBLE,
(Her 11th Appearance upon the English Stage.)
Adalgisa, ...Miss RAINFORTH
Clotilda, Miss GRANT,
Children, Miss A. PAYNE and Master FOSTER.
Gaulish Chiefs, Druids, Bards, Druidesses, &c.

After which, (9th Time) a New Farce, in Two Acts, entitled The

WRONG MAN!

Sir Bryan Beausex, Mr BARTLEY,
Beechwood.. .....Mr CHARLES MATHEWS,
Simon Tack, Mr HARLEY,
Joseph ..... Mr J. H. RIDGWAY,
Ralph, Mr AYLIFFE,
Sam, Mr COLLETT, Servant Mr IRELAND,
First Guest, Mr HONNER,
Second Guest ..... Mr HUGHES,
Miss Tomasina Fringe. Mrs TAYLEURE,
Alice, MissCOOPER,
Patty Smart .... Mrs HUMBY.

To conclude with, a Farce, in One Act, by Mr. Morton, called

Brother Ben.

Commodore Cutlass .....Mr BARTLEY,
Mr Snuffleton....Mr HARLEY,
Benjamin Bowles....Mr CHARLES MATHEWS,
Mrs Cutlass..Miss COOPER,
Mrs Benjamin Bowles.....Miss LEE,
Dorothy..Mrs TAYLEURE.

To-morrow, Court and City, and Free and Easy.

Theatre Royal, English Opera.

THIS EVENING,

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

Conductor, M. MUSARD

Leader, M. TOLBECQUE.

Solo Performers—Messrs. M. Deloffre, Patey, Pilet, Howell, Collinet, Barrett, Baumann, Lazarus, Jarrett, Laurent, Jun., Muller, &c.

PROGRAMME

PART I

Overture .... Lestocq .. Auber

Waltz .. Elektrische Funken (Electrical Sparks) .. Strauss.

Grand Fantaisie on the Opera of "Guillaume Tell, ... Rossini

Solo, Bassoon, Mr. BAUMANN,
Solo, Clarionet, Mr. LAZARUS,

Quadrille .. La Grande Bretagne .... Musard

Solo, Ophycleide, M. Prospere.

Overture .... Le Jeune Henri .... Mehul

Quadrille .. L'Echarpe Rose .. Musard

PART II

Grande Fantaisie sur l'Opera des Huguenots .... Meyerbeer.

(Arranged by Mons. MUSARD for the Paris Concerts) including

1. Le Chœur des Signeurs,
2. La Romance Executee sur le hautbois par M. Barret.
3. Le Choral de Luther,
4. La Chanson de Soldats.

Quadrille .. Zanetta .. Musard

Overture .... Le Serment .. Auber

Quadrille .. Les Diamants de la Couronne .. Musard

Waltz .. Brandhofen .. Labitzsky

Galop .. Le Sabbat .. Musard

Admission, One Shilling,

Doors Open at Half-past Seven, the Concert commences at Eight and terminates at Eleven.

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